

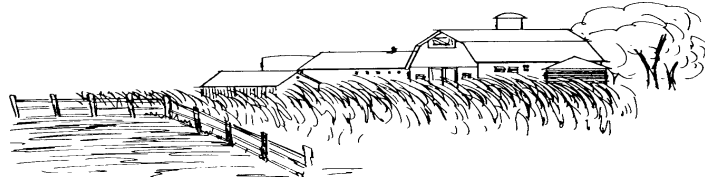


UTAH
AGRICULTURAL
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News Release

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Agricultural Prices

Utah: Prices received by Utah farmers and ranchers during mid-March 2004, compared with February 2004, were down for barley, alfalfa hay, and other hay, according to the Utah Agricultural Statistics Service.

The lamb price for February 2004 was \$106.00 per cwt, up \$13.00 from March 2003. The February 2004 sheep price, at \$36.00, was \$1.00 below March 2003.

Barley, at \$2.48 per bushel, was down 26 cents from the previous month's price and 10 cents below last year. Baled alfalfa hay was \$75.00 per ton, down \$3.00 from last month and \$15.00 below last year. Other hay, at \$62.00 per ton, was \$4.00 lower than last month and \$1.00 lower than March 2003.

United States: The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in March at 122, based on 1990-92=100, is 6 points (5.2 percent) above the February Index. The Livestock Products Index increased 8 points (7.1 percent) from February while the All Crops Index increased 4 points (3.3 percent). Producers received higher commodity prices for cattle, soybeans, milk, and eggs. Lower prices were received for lettuce, strawberries, broccoli, and asparagus. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell, based on the past 3-year average, also affects the overall index. Increased average marketings of strawberries, asparagus, milk, and broilers offset decreased marketings of cattle, cotton, corn, and onions. The preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 23 points (23 percent) from March 2003.

The Food Commodities Index increased 7 points (6.0 percent) from last month to 123. The index stands 27 points (28 percent) above March 2003.